

Serial No.: 10/827,476
Inventor(s): Higgins et al.

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U.S. PTO Customer No. 25280
Case No.: 5615B

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully acknowledge the allowance of claims 1 – 11, 19 – 24, 38, 39, 42, and 43 in the Office Action mailed December 27, 2006. Applicants also respectfully acknowledge the indication that claims 27 – 29, 33 – 36, and 50 contain allowable subject matter.

Applicants have cancelled claims 25, 26, 31, 32, 37, 40, 41, 44, 45, 48, and 50 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicants have amended claims 33 – 36 and 50 to place those claims in condition for allowance.

Applicants did not amend claims 27 – 30 as claims 27 and 30 depend from allowed claim 1 and as such are allowable, and claims 28 and 29 depend from claim 27 and are allowable for the same reasons as claim 27.

As such, Applicants respectfully believe the remaining claims to be allowable and in condition for allowance.

In an effort to place the case in condition for allowance, Applicants have cancelled all of the rejected claims except claim 30 as claim 30 depends from claim 1 an allowable claim. Applicants respectfully believe claim 30 to be allowable for the same reasons as claim 1. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to argue in this or another forum that the cancelled claims are allowable.

Applicants respectfully request allowance of the remaining claims (1 – 11, 19 – 24, 27 – 30, 33 – 36, 38, 39, 42, 43, and 50).

As Applicants have placed the application in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully believe this Amendment to be timely and request that it be entered and the case allowed.

Conclusion

In view of the forgoing Amendments and Remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the subject application to Allowance.

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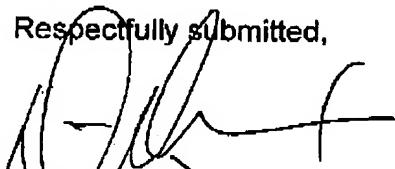
Fee Authorization: In the event that there are additional fees associated with the submission of these papers, Applicants hereby authorize the Commissioner to withdraw those fees from our Deposit Account No. 04-0500.

Extension of Time: In the event that additional time is required to have the papers submitted herewith for the above referenced application to be considered timely, Applicants hereby petition for any additional time required to make these papers timely and authorization is hereby granted to withdraw any additional fees necessary for this additional time from our Deposit Account No. 04-0500.

January 9, 2007

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Respectfully submitted,



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